



Massachusetts
Department of Correction

Quarterly Report on the Status of Prison Overcrowding, First Quarter of 1996

Submitted in Compliance with Chapter 799
Section 21 of the Acts of 1985

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Commissioner

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1996 First Quarter Report

Section Twenty-one of Chapter 799 of the Acts of 1985 directs the Commissioner of Correction to report quarterly on the status of overcrowding in the state and county facilities. This statute calls for the following information:

Such report shall include, by facility, the average daily census for the period of the report and the actual census on the second and last days of the report period. Said report shall also contain such information for the previous twelve months and a comparison to the rated capacity of such facility.

This report presents the required statistics for the first quarter of 1996.

This report was prepared by Ramon V. Raagas of Research & Planning and is based on daily count sheets prepared by the Classification Division. Table 5 is based on Admission and Release rosters submitted by the institutions.

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Technical Note

✧ The official capacity or custody level designation for each facility can change for a number of reasons, e.g. expansion of facility beds, decrease of facility beds due to fire, or changes in contracts with vendors. In all tables the capacity and custody level reflects the status at the end of the reporting period. The design capacity is reported for correctional facilities in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

✧ On January 31, 1995, the design capacity for the Departmental Segregation Units (DSU) at MCI-Cedar Junction and MCI-Norfolk were taken off the count sheets. The segregation units are considered support beds and are not shown on the daily count sheet as design capacity. This resulted in the elimination of 91 beds from the previous quarterly reports.

✧ In previous quarterly reports, the population figures for PPREP were included with the Park Drive population. The PPREP population is reported independently starting with the first quarter of 1995.

✧ The population figures for all facilities include both male and female inmates except as shown at Lancaster.

✧ State inmates housed in the Hampshire county contract program are included in the county population tables as are all other state inmates housed in county facilities.

✧ Longwood Treatment Center is a specialized DOC facility for individuals incarcerated for O.U.I. Because the inmates are primarily county sentenced inmates, the inmate count and bed capacity are also included in Tables 3 and 4.

✧ Pondville Correctional Center is a minimum/pre-release security facility formerly known as Norfolk Pre-Release Center.

✧ The Massachusetts Boot Camp opened on August 17, 1992, and is located at the Bridgewater Correctional complex in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Prior to 1993, the Boot Camp was listed as a DOC minimum security facility. In August, 1995, 128 beds were designated to security level 4. In October, 1995, these beds were added to security level 4 design capacity.

✧ Norfolk County includes Braintree, Dedham, and Norfolk Contract. Middlesex County includes both Billerica and Cambridge. Berkshire County includes the pre-release facility. Essex County includes Middleton, and Lawrence Correctional Alternative Center. Bristol County includes Dartmouth, Eastern Mass. Alternative Center and Pre-Release.

✧ Nashua Street inmates housed at other facilities are reported in the counts for the facilities in which they are in custody.

✧ During June, 1993, Plymouth House of Correction added 833 beds increasing its total to 1,140 beds.

✧ On April 18, 1995, new security level changes were established according to 103 DOC 101 Correctional Institutions/Custody Levels policy which states:

Custody Levels:

- **Level One.** The least restrictive in the department and is reserved only for those inmates who are at the end of their sentence and have been identified as posing little to no threat to the community. Supervision is minimal and indirect.

- **Level Two.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate maximum responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions prior to their release. Direct supervision of these inmates is not required, but intermittent observation may be appropriate under certain conditions. Inmates within this level may be permitted to access the community unescorted to participate in programming to include, but not limited to, work release, educational release, etc.

Custody Levels (cont'd.)

- **Level Three.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of returning to the inmate a greater sense of personal responsibility and autonomy while still providing for supervision and monitoring of behavior and activity. Inmates within this security level are not considered a serious risk to the safety of staff, inmates or to the public. Program participation is mandated and geared toward their potential reintegration into the community. Access to the community is limited and under constant direct staff supervision.

- **Level Four.** A custody level in which both the design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the goal of restoring to the inmate some degree of responsibility and control of their own behavior and actions, while still insuring the safety of staff and inmates. Design/construction is generally characterized by high security parameters and limited use of internal physical barriers. Inmates at this level have demonstrated the ability to abide by rules and regulations and require intermittent supervision. However, behavior in the community, i.e., criminal sentence and/or the presence of serious outstanding legal matters indicate the need for some control and for segregation from the community. Job and program opportunities exist for all inmates within the perimeter of the facility.

- **Level Five.** A custody level in which design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates. Inmates accorded to this status may present an escape risk or pose a threat to other inmates, staff, or the orderly running of the institution, however, at a lesser degree than those at level 6. Supervision remains constant and direct. Through an inmates willingness to comply with institutional rules and regulations, increased job and program opportunities exist.

- **Level Six.** A custody level in which both design/construction as well as inmate classification reflect the need to provide maximum external and internal control and supervision of inmates primarily through the use of high security parameters and extensive use of internal physical barriers and check points. Inmates accorded this status present serious escape risks or pose serious threats to themselves, to other inmates, to staff, or the orderly running of the institution. Supervision of inmates is direct and constant. Inmates are confined to their cells at all times, except when they are removed for authorized activities. Inmates within their status, when removed from their cell, are typically under escort and in restraints.

Abbreviations

| | | | |
|------|--|-------|---|
| AC | - Addiction Center | OSCC | - Old Colony Correctional Center |
| ADP | - Average Daily Population | OUI | - Operating Under the Influence |
| ATU | - Awaiting Trial Unit | PPREP | - Pre-Parole Residential Environmental Phase Program |
| CRS | - Contract Residential Services. Includes Charlotte House, and Houston House | PRC | - Pre-Release Center |
| DDU | - Departmental Disciplinary Unit | SECC | - Southeastern Correctional Center |
| DOC | - Department of Correction | SDPTC | - Sexually Dangerous Person Treatment Center |
| DSU | - Departmental Segregation Unit | SMCC | - South Middlesex Correctional Center (formerly SMPRC) |
| NECC | - Northeastern Correctional Center | SH | - State Hospital |
| NCCI | - North Central Correctional Institution at Gardner | TC | - Treatment Center (Longwood) |

Table 1 provides the DOC figures for the first quarter of 1996. As this table indicates, the DOC population (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp) increased by 137 inmates, or 1 percent, during the first quarter. At the end of the quarter, the DOC operated with 9,572 inmates in the system, and the average daily population was 9,467 with a design capacity of 6,565. Thus, the DOC operated at 144 percent of design capacity.

**Population in Department of Correction Facilities
January 2, 1996 to March 29, 1996**

| Custody Level/ Facility | Avg. Daily Population | Beginning Population | Ending Population | Design Capacity | % ADP Capacity |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Custody Level 6 | | | | | |
| Cedar Junction | 811 | 807 | 799 | 633 | 128% |
| Framingham - ATU | 96 | 75 | 88 | 64 | 150% |
| Custody Level 5 | | | | | |
| OCCC | 701 | 705 | 725 | 488 | 144% |
| Custody Level 4 | | | | | |
| Concord | 1,006 | 1,001 | 1,021 | 514 | 196% |
| Framingham | 477 | 460 | 506 | 388 | 123% |
| Norfolk | 1,337 | 1,329 | 1,340 | 988 | 135% |
| Bay State | 294 | 295 | 294 | 266 | 111% |
| NCCI | 1,015 | 1,015 | 1,020 | 568 | 179% |
| SECC | 869 | 875 | 873 | 456 | 191% |
| Shirley-Medium | 1,094 | 1,094 | 1,095 | 720 | 152% |
| Mass. Boot Camp | 81 | 80 | 102 | 128 | 63% |
| Sub-Total | 7,781 | 7,736 | 7,863 | 5,213 | 149% |
| Custody Level 3 | | | | | |
| Plymouth | 167 | 167 | 172 | 151 | 111% |
| NECC | 240 | 235 | 252 | 150 | 160% |
| SECC-Minimum | 103 | 103 | 105 | 100 | 103% |
| Shirley-Lower | 344 | 357 | 333 | 403 | 85% |
| Custody Level 3/2 | | | | | |
| Lancaster-Male | 194 | 194 | 204 | 94 | 206% |
| Lancaster-Female | 60 | 62 | 60 | 59 | 102% |
| Pondville | 189 | 192 | 189 | 100 | 189% |
| SMCC | 183 | 186 | 178 | 125 | 146% |
| Sub-Total | 1,480 | 1,496 | 1,493 | 1,182 | 125% |
| Custody Level 2 | | | | | |
| Boston State | 98 | 96 | 101 | 55 | 178% |
| Park Drive | 47 | 46 | 47 | 50 | 94% |
| Hodder House | 28 | 26 | 32 | 35 | 80% |
| Custody Level 1 | | | | | |
| Charlotte | 7 | 7 | 7 | 15 | 47% |
| Houston House | 7 | 6 | 10 | 15 | 47% |
| PREPP | 19 | 22 | 19 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Sub-Total | 206 | 203 | 216 | 170 | 121% |
| Total | 9,467 | 9,435 | 9,572 | 6,565 | 144% |
| Bridgewater SH | 329 | 345 | 329 | 227 | 145% |
| Bridgewater TC | 208 | 206 | 247 | 216 | 96% |
| Bridgewater AC | 125 | 130 | 142 | 214 | 58% |
| Longwood TC | 144 | 149 | 141 | 141 | 102% |
| Sub-Total | 806 | 830 | 859 | 798 | 101% |
| Grand Total | 10,273 | 10,265 | 10,431 | 7,363 | 140% |
| Houses of Correction | 850 | 850 | 859 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Federal Prisons | 25 | 29 | 29 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Inter-State Contract | 359 | 363 | 348 | n.a. | n.a. |

Table 2 provides the DOC figures for the previous twelve months - i.e., for the period January 2, 1995 to December 31, 1995. These figures indicate that the DOC population decreased by 159, or minus 2 percent, over this twelve month period (excluding Bridgewater SH, SDPTC, AC, Longwood TC, Mass. Boot Camp), from 9,619 in January, 1995 to 9,460 in December, 1995.

Population Distribution by Custody Level
January 2, 1995 to December 31, 1995

| Custody Level/ Facility | Average Daily Population | Beginning Population | Ending Population | Design Capacity | % ADP Capacity |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Custody Level 6 | | | | | |
| Cedar Junction | 755 | 828 | 805 | 633 | 119% |
| Framingham - ATU | 102 | 89 | 76 | 64 | 159% |
| Custody Level 5 | | | | | |
| OCCC | 734 | 716 | 705 | 488 | 150% |
| Custody Level 4 | | | | | |
| Concord | 1,324 | 1,290 | 1,005 | 514 | 258% |
| Framingham | 462 | 438 | 466 | 388 | 119% |
| Norfolk | 1,328 | 1,315 | 1,322 | 988 | 134% |
| Bay State | 292 | 263 | 296 | 266 | 110% |
| NCCI | 1,012 | 1,002 | 1,013 | 568 | 178% |
| SECC | 806 | 723 | 866 | 456 | 177% |
| Shirley-Medium | 1,078 | 1,089 | 1,091 | 720 | 150% |
| * Mass. Boot Camp | 98 | 0 | 82 | 128 | 77% |
| Sub-Total | 7,991 | 7,753 | 7,727 | 5,213 | 153% |
| Custody Level 3 | | | | | |
| Plymouth | 182 | 183 | 189 | 151 | 121% |
| NECC | 244 | 255 | 235 | 150 | 163% |
| SECC-Minimum | 140 | 186 | 103 | 100 | 140% |
| Custody Level 3/2 | | | | | |
| Lancaster-Male | 194 | 204 | 198 | 94 | 206% |
| Lancaster-Female | 68 | 78 | 62 | 59 | 115% |
| Pondville | 193 | 201 | 191 | 100 | 193% |
| Shirley-Lower | 370 | 407 | 358 | 403 | 92% |
| SMCC | 174 | 154 | 187 | 125 | 139% |
| Sub-Total | 1,565 | 1,668 | 1,523 | 1,182 | 132% |
| Custody Level 2 | | | | | |
| Boston State | 97 | 94 | 98 | 55 | 176% |
| Park Drive | 46 | 40 | 46 | 50 | 92% |
| Hodder House | 24 | 23 | 26 | 35 | 69% |
| Custody Level 1 | | | | | |
| Charlotte | 13 | 14 | 7 | 15 | 87% |
| Houston House | 9 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 60% |
| * PREPP | 24 | 16 | 24 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Sub-Total | 213 | 198 | 210 | 170 | 125% |
| Total | 9,769 | 9,619 | 9,460 | 6,565 | 149% |
| Bridgewater SH | 328 | 303 | 341 | 227 | 144% |
| Bridgewater TC | 208 | 212 | 206 | 216 | 96% |
| Bridgewater AC | 175 | 174 | 124 | 214 | 82% |
| Longwood TC | 142 | 129 | 143 | 125 | 114% |
| Mass. Boot Camp | 106 | 93 | 86 | 128 | 83% |
| Sub-Total | 959 | 911 | 900 | 910 | 105% |
| Grand Total | 10,728 | 10,530 | 10,360 | 7,475 | 144% |
| Houses of Correction | 902 | 951 | 851 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Federal Prisons | 29 | 28 | 30 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Inter-State Contract | 101 | 69 | 363 | n.a. | n.a. |

(* = See Technical Notes)

Table 3 presents the county figures for the first quarter of 1996. The county population increased by 913 inmates, or 8 percent during this quarter. At the end of the quarter, the county system operated with 11,669 inmates, and the average daily population was 11,398 in facilities with a total design capacity of 8,129. Thus, the county system operated at 140 percent of design capacity.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities
January 2, 1996 to March 29, 1996**

| Facility | Average Daily Population | Beginning Population | Ending Population | Design Capacity | % ADP Capacity |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Barnstable | 282 | 268 | 287 | 110 | 256% |
| Berkshire | 232 | 215 | 255 | 116 | 200% |
| Bristol | 1,113 | 1,072 | 1,142 | 666 | 167% |
| Dukes | 20 | 25 | 17 | 19 | 105% |
| Essex | 1,340 | 1,227 | 1,297 | 635 | 211% |
| Franklin | 132 | 125 | 128 | 63 | 210% |
| Hampden | 1,404 | 1,340 | 1,442 | 1,178 | 119% |
| Hampden-OUI | 132 | 131 | 132 | 125 | 106% |
| Hampshire | 258 | 237 | 263 | 248 | 104% |
| Middlesex | 1,285 | 1,218 | 1,257 | 792 | 162% |
| Norfolk | 573 | 506 | 584 | 379 | 151% |
| Plymouth | 1,138 | 1,121 | 1,184 | 1,140 | 100% |
| Suffolk-Nashua St | 565 | 530 | 598 | 453 | 125% |
| Suffolk-So. Bay | 1,516 | 1,447 | 1,577 | 1,146 | 132% |
| Worcester | 1,175 | 1,085 | 1,210 | 790 | 149% |
| Longwood TC | 144 | 149 | 141 | 141 | 102% |
| Mass. Boot Camp | 89 | 60 | 155 | 128 | 83% |
| Total | 11,398 | 10,756 | 11,669 | 8,129 | 140% |

Table 4 presents the county figures for the previous twelve months. These figures indicate that the county population increased by 812 inmates or 8 percent over this twelve-month period, from 10,067 in January 1995, to 10,879 in December, 1995.

**Population in County Correctional Facilities
January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995**

| Facility | Average Daily Population | Beginning Population | Ending Population | Design Capacity | % ADP Capacity |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Barnstable | 276 | 260 | 271 | 110 | 251% |
| Berkshire | 226 | 203 | 219 | 116 | 195% |
| Bristol | 1,049 | 969 | 1,087 | 666 | 158% |
| Dukes | 23 | 17 | 26 | 19 | 121% |
| Essex | 1,231 | 1,077 | 1,257 | 635 | 194% |
| Franklin | 127 | 116 | 122 | 63 | 201% |
| Hampden | 1,460 | 1,390 | 1,350 | 1,178 | 124% |
| Hampden-OUI | 134 | 126 | 132 | 125 | 107% |
| Hampshire | 248 | 250 | 243 | 248 | 100% |
| Middlesex | 1,255 | 1,098 | 1,217 | 792 | 158% |
| Norfolk | 551 | 490 | 525 | 379 | 145% |
| Plymouth | 1,084 | 1,072 | 1,121 | 1,140 | 95% |
| Suffolk-Nashua St | 533 | 492 | 530 | 453 | 118% |
| Suffolk-So. Bay | 1,453 | 1,340 | 1,473 | 1,146 | 127% |
| Worcester | 1,083 | 945 | 1,077 | 790 | 137% |
| Longwood TC | 142 | 129 | 143 | 125 | 114% |
| Mass. Boot Camp | 106 | 93 | 86 | 128 | 83% |
| Total | 10,981 | 10,067 | 10,879 | 8,113 | 135% |

Table 5 provides statistics on court commitments to the DOC in 1995 and 1996. Overall, there has been a decrease of 215, or minus 21 percent, in commitments for 1996 in comparison with the number of commitments in 1995, from 1,003 to 788. Overall, male commitments for 1996 decreased by 108, or minus 17 percent from 1995. Commitments to Framingham (females) during 1996 decreased by 107, or minus 29 percent compared to the number of commitments during the same period of 1995.

| Court Commitments to the DOC | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | Difference |
| MALES | | | |
| First Quarter | 636 | 528 | -17% |
| FEMALES | | | |
| First Quarter | 367 | 260 | -29% |
| Total | 1,003 | 788 | -21% |

Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the number of court commitments to the DOC committing institutions during the first quarter of 1995 and the first quarter of 1996.

